

## DEAS THAT MADE MILLIONS

Government's Patent Office Full of Human Interest.

While Nations Have Returned Immense Fortunes—Apparently the Absurd, Witless Fancies Have Been among Most Profitable.

(From the New York Times.)

Would you like to bend a piece of wire and collect a million for that simple act? It has been done. Would you like to turn a screw and find that you had added one of the greatest conveniences of modern civilization and incidentally earned \$100,000? This has also been done. The moving picture show, that diversion of all the civilized world, was made possible through the simple device of making a slit bigger than it had been before. It is because a farther lay on his back in the middle of the night and thought that the world has the convenience of the platform scale. Every year he seems the addition of more conveniences and the amassing of fortunes from them.

A hundred years ago this government decided that it would be advisable to protect the inventor in such a way that he might be allowed the exclusive right to profits from his invention for a term of 17 years after making it. It was held that making invention profitable would add to the advancement of the race. All the important nations have taken the same view of the matter. All have protected the ideas of their inventors. The advancement of the world during this practical age of mechanics has proven the wisdom of this plan. This government has issued 1,000,000 patents to date. It is issuing 100 of them every day. Of some 60 odd of these nothing is ever heard, but there are a few that are regularly making good. The story of them makes pale those yarns of gold strikes and millionaires made in a day. Here are a few.

## INVENTING THE MOVING PICTURE.

C. Francis Jenkins is the inventor of the moving picture show. He was a government clerk before he became an inventor. The idea of a machine that would project pictures in such a way as to show a scene of action had been sticking in the back of his head for a long time. There were other people working upon it, among them being Thomas Edison. They had developed a crude machine that approached, but did not accomplish, the desired result. The machine depended upon the operation of a shutter, or revolving disk. In this disk was a hole and every time the hole came around a new picture was projected. Then the light was shut off and a new picture shifted into place by the time the hole came around again. This left the curtain dark for so long a period that the desired idea of a continuous scene was not produced.

All that Jenkins did was to enlarge the hole. He extended it until it became a slit that took up nine-tenths of the distance around the disk. Thus was the picture exposed nine times as long as the picture was kept dark. Operating rapidly this gave the impression of a continuous exposure, and the instant of darkness during which the shift of pictures was made was not apparent. The moving picture machine was thus perfected and the way was made clear for its development into the most universal entertainment feature that the world has ever known.

So simple was the claim upon which Jenkins applied for his patents that they were at first refused. He was told he had no idea that had not been applied in previous machines. Jenkins insisted that his machine worked, while the others did not. In the end the commissioner of patents passed favorably upon his claim simply because Jenkins demonstrated to him that the given machine actually produced the result, while the others failed. Jenkins did not make a fortune on this invention, but sold it outright for \$5,000, and other people have reaped the great profits, while the inventor has since grown affluent as a result of other children of his brain.

## TELEPHONE AN ACCIDENT.

Probably the best paid piece of labor the world has ever known was that performed by Dr. Alexander Graham Bell when he twisted a screw one-fourth of one revolution and thereby invented the telephone, and made a hundred million dollars. It is likewise interesting to know that the invention was made by accident and that Dr. Bell did not realize that it was of any commercial value for months afterward.

Dr. Bell is by nature and training a very learned and original scientist. His father had invented an alphabet for the deaf, and Dr. Bell had been a student from childhood of methods of training the deaf to speak. It was through this work that he first met the young lady whom he afterward married, and who had been entirely deaf from childhood.

The inventive mind of the scientist sought a method of making speech visible by some such device as electric flashes that he might talk more freely with his wife. In connection with this attempt he was using a contrivance which another man had invented and which attempted to carry speech to a distance by means of electricity and a wire. The former inventor had been using an intermittent current, that is a current that jumps a gap and, therefore, is not continuous. When Dr. Bell turned the screw already referred to, he closed this gap, making the current constant, and the principle of the modern telephone was established.

Dr. Bell found that he could talk over his wire, which bore an electric current. He rigged up a system through which he talked from cellar to his kitchen. One night, weeks later, he demonstrated this contrivance to a party of friends who were calling upon him. One of these friends saw the commercial possibilities that lay back of it and pointed them out to Dr. Bell, and urged him to protect himself by patents. Next morning at 10 o'clock he took out his patents. At that instant that afternoon another man applied for a patent on the same idea. Through this difference of time one man gained and another lost \$10,000,000 and a world-wide reputation.

## MILLS AND ARMY BELT.

Brig-Gen. Anson Mills is the inventor of the cartridge belt that every wearer of the khaki buckles about him when he goes into the field. General Mills, in his earlier days on the frontier, found that the sewed belts worn at that time were constantly ripping and making it necessary for the soldier to carry his ammunition over his shoulder and fear greatly for the prospective loss of his trousers. The young army officer thereupon set about weaving a belt of his own that would be a vastly superior article. He showed it to the proper authorities in the war department and they refused to buy. He offered it to manufacturers, and they stated that there was no machinery that

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would weave it. The army man thereupon invented a weaving machine, wove a trunkful of belts and set sail for Europe. There he sold the belt rights to each country separately and started back home with half the money on the continent.

Arriving in Washington he was approached by departmental officials who had heard by way of Europe, of the merits of the woven belt. Having his back up, the officer thereupon made Uncle Sam pay him a fancy price for the rights to use the belt. He gets a royalty off of every one that is belted about the zone of a soldier. There were more than a million and a half of them bought in a single decade. General Mills built from the war department with the proceeds of his sales to the government and rented this as an overflow office building for that department. So does the belt continue to extract indirectly coin of the realm from the government.

As indicative of the fact that invention knows no class, the success of Francis H. Buzzelott, a private in the army, may be cited. Buzzelott was enlisted to the mess squad. The responsibility of cooking three square meals a day for some 1,500 men fell to him and a few associates. Moreover, the meals must be prepared in the field, on the march, and with the assistance of only such utensils as might be easily transported. All this came when the army was endeavoring to free itself of the necessity of eating hardtack when on the hike. The great need was an oven adapted to the purpose of cooking bread in the field. Buzzelott invented one. It is a sheetiron cube, four feet in every dimension. It weighs but 40 pounds and is easily portable. It may be knocked down and thrown into a wagon and will occupy little space. It may be set up in a moment and it will supply 1,500 men. It filled a long-felt need. The government has bought \$300,000 worth of these ranges already. They are manufactured by a firm that pays a handsome royalty to the former private soldier, and that personage is living in affluence.

## BOTTLE STOPPER PROFITS.

When anybody in the United States pulls the cap off a bottle of anything that whistles with intent to quench a thirst he pays the fraction of a cent in royalties to William H. Painter, who lives in Baltimore. Painter is the man who invented the little metal cap that fits on the mouth of all the beer and soda water bottles of the nation, and there is promise that a considerable number of these will be loosened before the summer is over.

This cap is the simplest thing imaginable, yet there is no stopper that compares with it. Painter, however, carried this patent about in his pocket for six years before he found a backer to manufacture the cap. Eventually a man was found who advanced small amounts of money and received a half interest in the patent in return. The first year the net returns were \$27,000, and this gave the capital for larger operations, and millions have resulted.

Painter was not, however, the first man to make a fortune in stoppers. There was a man named De Quillefeldt who lived in New Jersey, and who, some 20 years ago, struck a staggering blow at the cork stoppers. His invention was a rubber stopper that was tightened into the mouth of a bottle by means of a piece of stiff metal that was pulled down as a lever at the side of the bottle neck. All milk bottles got this faster in the days of our youth.

De Quillefeldt is said to have made \$150,000 out of this patent. He met his Waterloo, however, when a yet simpler idea appeared. Some enterprising individual so cut a piece of pasteboard as to make it snugly into the mouth of milk bottles and stick. It would be difficult to imagine a simpler patent than this. Yet it entirely ousted the multi-millionaire of the stopper that preceded it, and put him out of business.

## CAPITALIZED SIMPLICITY.

The piece of pasteboard used as a stopper does not, however, hold the record for fortunes made upon ideas so simple as to be ignored by the multitude. The hook and eye that plays such an important part in holding feminine garments together, was a reasonably simple thing in the

beginning, and made its little piece of money. Husbands had been hooking up their wives for a generation, however, before the improved hook that made a bigger fortune broke the simplicity record as well. One of these hookers-up, a man named De Long, and living in the same suburban city of Philadelphia, had noticed that his efforts often came to naught, for the hooks at the top were frequently undone before those at the bottom were fastened. He bent an especially exasperating hook in such a way as to make a hump in it. It stayed fastened. The hook with a bump was patented and the public has been asked continuously since to "see that hump." It has seen it to the extent of some hundreds of thousands of dollars.

There is another story of an invention that likewise has a domestic setting that rivals this one for simplicity. The women of the world have been using wire hairpins for some decades. Through most of the time since their invention these hairpins have consisted of two straight prongs of wire. One day a man was standing behind his wife while she dressed to go out with him. He was killing time watching her tie a few sailor's knots with her hair. She reached that stage of the operation where the hairpins were to be inserted. The husband noticed that his wife bent each hairpin back and forth before putting it in her hair. He asked her why she did it. She said that she wanted to make some crinkles in the hairpin so it would stay in. The husband immediately patented a crinkly hairpin and now a bevy of maids insert them in my lady's hair, for these people have a summer home on the Hudson and a

## INVENTING BY NIGHT.

Thaddeus Fairbanks was a New England farmer with long whiskers and much Yankee ingenuity. In his time those old-fashioned steelyards were the only scales for weighing the produce of the farm. Platform scales were unknown and there was much trouble wherever large merchandising was done in weighing the bulky articles that were bought and sold. The difficulty of weighing an article on a platform scale was due to the fact that the levers underneath the platform had never been so adjusted that the weight would be recorded the same regardless of the portion of the platform upon which it rested.

Fairbanks thought the levers could be figured upright. He drew many diagrams of these levers by day and thought much of their arrangement by night. It was from thinking by night that the problem was finally solved and Thaddeus aroused the family to celebrate the occasion. The family did not enthuse at the time, but later got in the game for everybody in the world named Fairbanks was made rich because of the demand for platform scales that came from every nook and cranny of the whole world. To-day the Fairbankses of St. Johnsbury, Vt., defy any traveler to penetrate to any point on the globe where any semblance of trade is carried on without finding the family name there before him.

It was in 1858 in the city of Philadelphia that a man named Hyman H. Lipman invented a lead pencil with a rubber on it. In those days the people of the street did not talk in the monster sums that are common to-day. In those days, likewise, a dollar would provision a good-sized household for a day. Yet even in those days of small fortunes and high value of money this Lipman cashed in his patent for \$100,000. Since then all the world had an added convenience because he lived and got rich.

## INVENTORS WHO HELPED WOMEN.

There was a man named Heaton who lived in Providence, R. I., who should have a place in the heart of every mother of children; for Heaton made it possible to so fasten on a shoe buttons as to be pulled off by the shoe. He invented the fasteners with which the buttons are punched onto all the shoes of the present generation, but the one that preceded this must needs sew its buttons on by hand.

There is also the sewing machine, which is one of the inventions that has been the greatest of boons to woman-kind. The development of the sewing machine depended very largely upon small ideas of the kind of putting an eye near the point of the needle. Elias Howe was the man with the idea. He patented it and built a sewing machine around it. Gradually the machine was perfected by Howe and others. When Howe's patent rights were expiring he asked Congress to extend them. He acknowledged that he had received \$118,000 in royalties, to all the shoes that his service to mankind had won so great that he deserved more money. Congress agreed with him.

The brass tips that went to protect the toes of those red top boots that were the pride of the youth of a generation ago were invented by a man named Silverthorn, and he made much money as a result of his invention. Another genius of the name of Pennington figured out the advisability of manufacturing a baggage tag that was reinforced by greater thickness pasted about the eye through which the string that attached it passed. All the tags in the world are now made that way. Yet it has been but a short time since they were constantly tearing off at the point of attachment. The baggage tag was invented and patented in 1871 and the name of Adams thus became associated with that favorite luxury of the shopgirl. Adams is likewise among the men who live on the Palisades, surrounded by landscape gardens, and takes vacations on private yachts.

Hand towels were accidentally discovered by a towel manufacturer whose machinery got out of order and tangled the threads intended for a smooth product. The manufacturer, after reading the rejected cloth, it was more effective than the smooth one he patented it and made a machine that would normally tangle the thread. The man who invented it can make it necessary for somebody to invent an opener. This was done and additional money corralled in the process. Yet there was still room for improvement on this method of getting at what is on the inside of these containers. A second invention made a can with a strip soldered on and a key with which to unscrew this strip and then open the can. Another fortune. Just recently still another inventor has produced a can that may be opened by a blow near the top and a single pucker in Chicago ordered 10,000,000 of them, thus starting another fortune to snowballing.

The men about the patent office relate these stories without end. Each one has been the examiner in the case and some of these little things that have afterward come to be an article of general use. Each one has seen the inventor, who appeared in frayed coat and soiled shoes, return in a touring car. Each has taken note of the progress of the idea because men have labored that the labor of others might be saved and that wealth might be attained in the saving.

Richard H. Royce of Rutland probably holds the long distance record for swimming at Lake Homestead, as he covered about five miles the other day.

## VERMONT NOTES

Governor Foss has postponed his Vermont campaign trip in behalf of Woodrow Wilson until next week.

The Shriners' Temple in Rutland is to be opened about November 1 when a play will be presented. It is the intention to book plays regularly.

Newbury this week is celebrating its 150th anniversary. A feature will be the unveiling of a statue to Gen. Jacob Bailey, who founded the town.

The United States postoffice department has decided to place the "Western Reserve" in St. Albans city on the postal map of Vermont. A postal sub-station will be established there.

The Progressives of Windsor county have nominated for State senator, John Wesley Miller of Bethel. Mr. Miller is the present member of the House of Representatives and has been for the past four years.

Robert McGinn, a brakeman on the Clarendon &amp; Pittsford railroad train, fell between two cars Saturday morning. His body was dismembered and he died two hours later. He was 29 years of age.

George Schmidt, the Rutland aviator, has been appointed an aerial postman, flying from Fort Recovery, Ohio. He is the first in the State of Ohio and the fourth licensed aerial mailman in the United States.

Irving Ketchum of Dummerston in a suit to restrain the Vermont Brick company of Putney from diverting the water of a brook that flowed through Ketchum's land, alleges that his farm and pasture have been depreciated in value.

J. D. Davis of Fairlee has a garden that produces vegetables especially attractive to deer. In order to keep the animals away and yet not injure them, he sprinkled sulphur between the rows, a remedy that worked like magic.

The largest gathering of Foresters in the State since the international convention at Burlington in 1909 took place Sunday afternoon at Rutland, when officers of the Vermont State court, Catholic Order of Foresters, members of a local committee and members of courts in Brandon, Proctor and Pittsford attended.

## IN CHURCH CIRCLES.

Rev. E. G. Guthrie to Start for New Zealand This Week.

The Rev. E. G. Guthrie, pastor of the First Church, preached his last sermon in this city Sunday morning prior to his visit to his old home in New Zealand. Tuesday evening, from 7:30 on, Mr. Guthrie and his sister were at home at the parsonage to meet friends both in and out of the church. To-day Mr. Guthrie will go to Montreal, sailing from there to-morrow morning on the Canadian Pacific steamer for Liverpool, England. He will pass a few days in London and sail from Southampton for Port Said on the Mediterranean Sea. About five days will be spent there and at Cairo, after which Mr. Guthrie will take another steamer for Bombay, reaching there about the last of September. At Bombay he will join the Rev. William Hazen, the missionary of the First Church, and for about three weeks will deliver addresses in India, the arrangements being made by the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. He will then proceed to New Zealand, intending to return to Burlington some time in March or April.

During Mr. Guthrie's absence the Rev. Dr. Stephen G. Barnes, for ten years pastor of the South Congregational Church in St. Johnsbury, will have charge of the First Church. Dr. Barnes left St. Johnsbury about a month ago and has been temporarily supplying the pulpit of the First Congregational Church in Springfield, Mass. For the next four Sundays the First Church will unite in services with the College Street Congregational Church and Dr. Barnes will take up his work in Burlington September 15.

## LOYAL LEGION MEET.

Elect the Rev. I. C. Smart a Companion and Honor Commodore Carl Rohrer.

A stated meeting of the Commandery of Vermont, Military Order of the Loyal Legion, was held Tuesday evening in Stannard Memorial hall. In the absence of the commander and senior and junior vice-commanders, the meeting was called to order by the registrar, Capt. C. D. Williams, who called upon Past Commander General W. H. Henry, who presided. The Rev. I. C. Smart of this city was elected a companion of the first-class by inheritance, his right of eligibility being derived from his father, the late Rev. William S. Smart, who was chaplain of the 14th Vermont regiment. Commodore Carl Rohrer, U. S. N., retired, was chosen registrar and briefly and pleasantly to a call to address the meeting. The next meeting will be held in November.

## A PLAGUE STRICKEN CITY.

In Spite of Bad Sanitary Conditions Guayaquil Is Prosperous.

(From the Christian Herald.) Guayaquil, Ecuador, has well earned the name of the world's pestiferous port. Yellow fever, bubonic plague, smallpox, malaria and other deadly diseases flourish amid bad sanitary conditions. The United States marine hospital service maintains a sanitary office at Guayaquil to establish a system of quarantine and supervise all ships bound for Panama.

The amount of fumigating done on this coast is extraordinary, much to the annoyance of the ship and cargo and the annoyance of the passengers. Each ship is provided with a Clayton machine, and before entering Guayaquil is thoroughly disinfected with dioxine of sulphur. But even quinine and other disinfectants are not proof against the deadly bite of the infected Stomoxys calopus, or yellow fever mosquito.

One of their officials, Dr. Whitman, succumbed recently to yellow fever. Both bubonic and yellow fever exist here in their most deadly forms; generally 30 cases out of every 100 are fatal. Notwithstanding that fires and earthquakes have devastated the place and bubonic and yellow fever scourges have swept over it, Guayaquil is to-day a crowded city of 80,000 or more. It is the emporium of the greater part of the country. The houses are of the lightest construction, built of wood and split bamboo. Given the frame outside and the flooring, a house of considerable dimensions can be walled with bamboo in a week.

Glass, unless in a few shop windows, is unknown. Venetian shutters serve to close the house windows, excluding the sun and allowing a cool breeze to pass through the rooms. Stoves are unknown, yet a Guayaquil cook over a primitive

charcoal fire can cook dinner for a party of 15 or 20 in a remarkably short time after the taste and flavor of the place.

Edison is credited with defining American genius as 2 per cent. of inspiration and 98 per cent. of perspiration. Guayaquil genius cannot claim such a high percentage and must rank about 99.9 per cent. of perspiration and 0.1 per cent. of inspiration.

The new arrival, amid equatorial heat, walks the stuffy streets bathed in perspiration beholding the apparently untrifled, indolent, easy going Guayaquil one who has never awakened to the reality of the strenuous life. Chicha boys and ice cream vendors are the only people who seem to put energy into life. With voice and bell they push their trade everywhere.

## PAYING THE PENALTY.

Men and Women Caught in a Raid Sentenced and Fined.

The raid made early Saturday morning on the home of Marguerite Loselle on North Winslow avenue was disposed of in city court Monday morning, when Marguerite was sentenced to spend a year in the house of correction, her colored soldier friend, W. C. Jones, was fined \$5 and costs, her running mate, Jennie Lamphore, a white woman, sentenced to 60 days and William Davis, a colored man, sentenced to 30 days.

The raid was conducted by Officers Crowley, Henry and Berry and was made after complaints that the Loselle girl was running a disorderly house had been made to the grand juror. S. R. Moulton prosecuted and F. G. Webster was employed by the defense.

It was at first intended to charge Marguerite with keeping a house of ill-fame but all four were convicted on a charge of breach of the peace. The Loselle girl was arrested last summer and when she was sentenced to 30 days in jail for open and gross lewdness Judge Palmer made as a condition for leniency that she leave the city as soon as possible. She remained as a sort of joke and never smilingly through it until sentence was pronounced, when she broke down and wept.

## A NEW FRONT AT E. E. CLARKSON &amp; CO.'S STORE.

Tuesday was the first day there was any outside evidence of what was going on at Clarkson's as one was passing, but there has been much going on back of the scenes for a week. Down in the basement iron gliders are being placed to hold the graduated lift entrance. There will be no steps to ascend over as you will see when the new front is finished. This new front is to be finished in No. 1 quarter oak paneled sides and top, with concealed electric lights. The tops of each window are to be in prism glass, which reflect a greater light into the store, and look much nicer from the outside. In connection with the plate glass windows, which are held together with metal ash, the very latest way that they are installed in large cities. When this new front is finished you will see goods displayed in six new windows instead of two, as they are to be the octagonal style, three on each side of the entrance, extending into the store 21 feet from the walk.

All of this work necessitates disposing of their summer stock quickly at tremendous reductions from all former prices, not only from the first floor, but on each of the other floors, in every department. They ask the indulgence of the public while this work is going on.

## ENLISTED 50 YEARS AGO.

N. H. Tracy, Member of Stannard Post, Observed Anniversary Tuesday.

Tuesday Nelson R. Tracy of 20 North Champlain street observed quietly the 50th anniversary of his enlistment in Company G, 13th New York volunteers, in which he served from August 13, 1862, until he was mustered out October 2, 1865, most of his time with the non-commissioned rank of corporal. He will be 75 years of age March 2 next, but is still active, rising daily at 5:30 a. m., and appearing at Stannard Memorial hall, of which he is janitor, at 6:00 or before. Except for the loss of one eye and the impairment of the other through malaria fever contracted in the Civil War his faculties are vigorous, and his recollection of events of half a century ago is excellent. Although present at several important battles of the war he escaped without wounds, but has survived no less than six serious accidents. At the battle of Cedar Creek he held 13 prisoners captive during a retreat and delivered them to his officers at the close of the action, without the loss of one of them.

Following the war he came to this city, and except for two years in the West he has lived here since. He is married, Mrs. Tracy has three sons and a daughter. Two other children died. His son, Edwin, is a member of Company C, 1st infantry, V. N. G., and is at present absent with the regiment at the manoeuvres around New York city. Mr. Tracy is a well-known member of Stannard Post, and popular with his comrades, as well as among all who know him.

## PILOT WITHOUT ARMS.

License Granted to C. A. Lutz, Expert with His Toes.

Probably the only man in the United States to hold a pilot's license when he is without arms is Charles A. Lutz, who is spending the summer at Grand Isle and who was granted a license Tuesday by Inspectors Goodhue and Rockwell. He intends to operate his 35 foot power boat among the islands and to carry passengers.

Lutz appeared at the office of the inspectors several days ago and although he seemed in every way qualified to run a boat, a pilot without arms had never before been heard of and the inspectors were in a quandary as they did not know but he would be disqualified for physical disability. Upon writing to Washington they were notified that if the inspectors could be satisfied of Lutz's ability to get away with the job, a license could be granted.

Tuesday Mr. Lutz arrived in the city, making the trip by boat without assistance from his cottage in Grand Isle and took the inspectors for a ride. They went out around the breakwater and passed a tug. There seemed to be no trouble with the operator of the engine and when he took the engine to pieces with his toes and handled a wrench as well as a mechanic could with his hands, he was told that he could have the license.

The boat which Lutz is now using he helped to build himself and wrote a story of his experiences for a motor boat paper. His longest trip by water was from Chicago to New York, when he came through the Great Lakes without assistance. Since that time he has run many other boats on long trips. He is an excellent swimmer and was at an exhibition swim across the Schuylkill river in Philadelphia a few weeks ago. He now appears in waders during the winter and is on the Keith circuit. Mr. Lutz lost his arms when a child in an accident in the West. At that time there were no surgeons anywhere in the vicinity and the neglect caused him to lose both

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